

AMENDMENT NO. _____

Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To establish within the Department of Justice the
Office of Consumer Advocacy.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—107th Cong., 1st Sess.

S.517

To authorize funding the Department of Energy to enhance
its mission areas through technology transfer and part-
nerships for fiscal years 2002 through 2006, and for
other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____
and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. WYDEN to
the amendment (No. 2917) proposed by Mr. DASCHLE

Viz:

1 On page 57, between lines 17 and 18, insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SEC. 253. OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
6 means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

7 (2) NATURAL GAS COMPANY.—The term “nat-
8 ural gas company” has the meaning given the term

1 in section 2 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C.
2 717a), as modified by section 601(a) of the Natural
3 Gas Policy Act of 1978 (15 U.S.C. 3431(a)).

4 (3) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Of-
5 fice of Consumer Advocacy established by subsection
6 (b)(1).

7 (4) PUBLIC UTILITY.—The term “public util-
8 ity” means any State agency or person that sells
9 electric energy.

10 (b) OFFICE.—

11 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established
12 within the Department of Justice the Office of Con-
13 sumer Advocacy.

14 (2) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be headed by
15 a Director to be appointed by the President, by and
16 with the advice and consent of the Senate.

17 (3) DUTIES.—The Office may—

18 (A) represent, and appeal on behalf of, the
19 people of the United States, with respect to the
20 interests of users of the products or services
21 provided by public utilities and natural gas
22 companies under the jurisdiction of the Com-
23 mission (including decisions of the Commis-
24 sion)—

25 (i) at hearings of the Commission;

1 (ii) in judicial proceedings in the
2 courts of the United States; and

3 (iii) at hearings or proceedings of
4 other Federal regulatory agencies and com-
5 missions;

6 (B) represent and appeal on behalf of peti-
7 tioners appearing before the Commission for
8 the purpose of complaining in matters con-
9 cerning rates or service of public utilities and
10 natural gas companies under the jurisdiction of
11 the Commission;

12 (C) investigate independently, or within the
13 context of formal proceedings before the Com-
14 mission, matters under the jurisdiction of the
15 Commission relating to the services provided by,
16 the rates charged by, and the valuation of the
17 properties of, public utilities and natural gas
18 companies;

19 (D) develop means, such as public dissemi-
20 nation of information, consultative services, and
21 technical assistance, to ensure, to the maximum
22 extent practicable, that the interests of users of
23 the products or services provided by public utili-
24 ties and natural gas companies under the juris-
25 diction of the Commission are adequately rep-

1 resented in the course of any hearing or pro-
2 ceeding described in subparagraph (A);

3 (E) petition the Federal Trade Commis-
4 sion or regional transmission organizations to
5 take actions under Federal law (including regu-
6 lations) to protect the interests of users of the
7 products and services provided by public utili-
8 ties and natural gas companies; and

9 (F) propose, evaluate the impact on con-
10 sumers of, and testify before Congress con-
11 cerning, legislation on matters relating to the
12 Commission.